(c) what is the number of persons arrested in this connection and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken to check such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) to (c) The Delhi Police have reported that four incidents of cheating and looting of foreign tourists were reported in Delhi during the last six months i.e. from 1st October, 1993 to 31st March, 1994. For criminal cases were registered at police stations Karol Bagh, I.G.I. Airport, Pahar Ganj and Desh Bandhu Gupta Road respectively. Three persons have already been arrested in these cases.

(d) The steps taken to check such crimes include intensification of patrolling; stationing of pickets at selected places; checking of hotels and guest houses; recording of registration number and name of TSR drivers who carry passengers at various pickets; providing of information and guidance to tourists, etc.

Increase in smuggling of illegal arms

4711. SHRI MATANG SINH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any increase in the smuggling of illegal arms into the country in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the effective steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (e) There are no reports indicating increase in the smuggling of illegal arms into the country in the recent past. After the Bombay bomb blast incidents and subsequent revelations that sizeable quantities of arms, ammunitions and explosives were smuggled into the country, a number of steps were taken by the Central and State Governments to effectively counter the smuggling activities. Government have asked the State Governments to appoint nodal officers for coordinating all actions for carrying out reinforced surveillance, especially along the coast. Appropriate instructions have also been issued to the Navy, Coast Guards and Customs for carrying out intensive patrolling on the high seas as well as along the coast-line. The outcome of these efforts is being regularly monitored.

Revision of validity period of tourist visas

4712. SHRI MOHD. MASUD KHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Home Affairs vide their circular No. 25022/13/90-F-I dated the 22nd April, 1991 have revised the validity period of tourist visa and other short term visas to 180 days; and this was conveyed to all the Superintendents of Police and Check Post Offices of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for stay beyond 180 days on tourist visa by one foreigner lady in Urai, district Jalaun; and

(c) what are the reasons for not sending her back to her own country even after receiving complaints to that effect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir. The validity of all short term visas including Tourist Visa was enhanced to 180 days and all the State Governments/UT administration/Foreigners Regional Registration Officers were informed that the request for extension of stay from foreigners holding Tourist Visas upto a period of 180 days may not be accepted. However, in certain exceptional cases, extension of stay even of short term Tourist Visa is granted by the Ministry of Home Affairs.